

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on December 18, 2002, an objection was made to the title; objections were made to the drawings; objections were made to claims 20, 27, 34 and 42; claims 19-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; claims 1, 19-23, 25-28, 30, 31, 33-36, 39-42 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakajima; and claims 24, 29, 32, 37, 38 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Kinoshita. The title has been amended to overcome the objection to the title. The specification has been amended to refer to the "memory 66" instead of "memory 60" to overcome the objection to the drawings. For purposes of expediting prosecution of the application, claims 20, 27, 34 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice to overcome the claim objections. Claims 1, 33 and 35-39 have also been cancelled without prejudice. The claims have also been amended to only recite one memory, thereby overcoming the § 112, first paragraph rejections of claims 19-44. The §§ 102 and 103 rejections are discussed below.

Rejections of Claims 19 and 21-25:

As amended, the method of claim 19 recites providing a light modulator that includes a pixel cell and a first memory local to the pixel cell relative to other pixel cells of the light modulator. The first memory stores a digital indication of a predetermined voltage.

Contrary to the limitations of amended claim 1, Nakajima neither teaches nor suggests a memory that is local to a pixel cell relative to other pixel cells. In this manner, the memory 22 of Nakajima stores data to be displayed in a display area 3. However, Nakajima neither teaches nor suggests that the memory 22 or any portion of the memory 22 is localized to a particular pixel cell relative to other pixel cells for purposes of storing a digital indication of a predetermined voltage to which a terminal voltage of that pixel cell is maintained. Therefore, for at least this reason, Nakajima fails to teach or suggest all limitations of amended claim 19.

Claims 21-25 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 26 and 28-32:

As amended, the method of claim 26 recites providing a light modulator that includes an array of pixel cells and memory buffers. Each memory buffer is associated with a different one of the pixel cells, and each memory buffer is located closer to the associated pixel cell than to the other pixel cells.

Contrary to the limitations of amended claim 26, Nakajima neither teaches nor suggests providing memory buffers that are closer to associated pixel cells than to other pixel cells. In this manner, Nakajima only discloses one memory device 22, not the memory buffers that are recited in claim 26. Furthermore, Nakajima neither teaches nor suggests locating a particular memory buffer closer to one pixel cell than to other pixel cells. Therefore, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claim 26 is requested. Claims 28-32 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 40, 43 and 44:

As amended, the light modulator of claim 40 recites an array of pixel cells and memory buffers that are spatially distributed among the pixel cells.

Contrary to the limitations of amended claim 40, Nakajima neither teaches nor suggests spatially distributing memory buffers among pixel cells. As shown in Nakajima, the memory device 22 is in one location and is not spatially distributed among pixel cells, as recited in amended claim 40. Therefore, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claim 40 is requested. Claims 43 and 44 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0312US).

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